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Security Council

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Letter dated 13 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 9 August 2001 from Mr. Naji Sabri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. Appended to the Minister's letter is a table showing violations of Iraq's international boundaries committed by United States and British warplanes flying across the demilitarized zone monitored by the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) in the period from 21 July to 3 August 2001.

The Minister urges you to instruct UNIKOM to perform its duties in full and to report these violations to the Security Council through you, given that they constitute wanton aggression against Iraq and against its people, its sovereignty and its territory, as well as against United Nations peacekeeping operations, and he asks you to alert the Security Council to its responsibility to halt the aggression and hold the aggressors accountable for it under international law.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Al-Douri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-51067 (E) 150801 160801

Annex to the letter dated 13 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to our letter dated 28 July 2001 (S/2001/755, annex), I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes committed 107 violations of Iraq's international boundaries from Kuwait and by way of the demilitarized zone monitored by the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) in the period from 21 July to 3 August 2001. On the basis of the table appended to this letter, the relevant Iraqi authorities have determined that the violations committed were as follows:

1. Armed and hostile aerial activity by the United States and the United Kingdom, violating our international boundaries by way of the demilitarized zone, comprised 107 sorties in the following governorates: Basrah, Maysan, Dhi Qar, Muthanna and Qadisiyah.

2. Our technical systems identified the aircraft violating Iraq's airspace on an almost daily basis as American F-14s, F-15s, F-16s and F-18s and British Tornadoes.

3. An AWACS aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace provided support to all of the United States and British aircraft indicated in paragraphs 1 and 2 above that carried out armed and hostile sorties by violating Iraq's airspace by way of the demilitarized zone.

4. A total of 14 remotely piloted aircraft violated Iraq's airspace from Kuwait by way of the demilitarized zone between 21 July and 3 August 2001.

All of the violations in question were committed by way of the demilitarized zone in which UNIKOM is stationed. One of UNIKOM's primary responsibilities is to monitor such hostile military operations and to report them and endeavour to halt them immediately.

The fair-minded nations of the world, including most of the Arab countries, have condemned the maintenance of the no-flight zones as representing an illegitimate use of force against an independent, sovereign State. Three countries that are permanent members of the Security Council, namely the Russian Federation, China and France, have stressed the fact that the enforcement of the no-flight zones in northern and southern Iraq has no basis in any principle of international law. Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, your predecessor as Secretary-General, has stated that the claim made by the United States that Security Council resolution 688 (1991) authorizes the imposition of the no-flight zones is groundless. At your press conference of 27 June 2001, you said that there was no basis in the resolutions of the Security Council for the imposition of the no-flight zones in northern and southern Iraq. Your actual words were (SG/SM/7865):

> "You know my position on this, and I have indicated that when you analyse and read the Security Council resolutions I do not see the Security Council resolutions as a basis for that."

The violations being committed by United States and British military aircraft, in which 10 to 20 of them are used daily, are tantamount to an undeclared war. It is imperative that the United Nations should take the measures that are required in

their regard under the Charter, so that the aggression may be halted and those who have committed the violations may be charged with full international responsibility for them, including liability for payment of compensation to Iraq.

The statements of UNIKOM to the effect that it is unable to monitor or identify these aircraft cannot be maintained in the light of the scientific and technological capabilities that are available or that UNIKOM is in a position to acquire and utilize in order to fulfil the requirements of its mandate by establishing the identity and country of the warplanes that are violating Iraq's sovereign airspace and thence taking deterrent measures against the aggressors.

I accordingly urge you once more to instruct UNIKOM to perform its duties in full and to report these violations to the Security Council through you immediately they occur, given that they constitute wanton aggression against Iraq and against its people, its sovereignty and its territory, as well as against United Nations peacekeeping operations, and I ask you to alert the Security Council to its responsibility to halt the aggression and hold the aggressors accountable for it under international law.

(*Signed*) Naji **Sabri**
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Enclosure

Hostile aerial activity violating Iraq's international boundaries from Kuwait, 21 July-3 August 2001

No.	*Date*	*From*	*Time*	*Type*	*Sorties*	*Altitude (metres)*	*Speed (km h)*	*Areas overflown*
1	21-27 July	Kuwait	0845-2315	F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18	47 (with 7 drones)	4,500-11,000	180-780	Basrah, Amarah, Nasiriyah, Qurnah, Artawi, Samawah, Shinafiyah
2	28 July-3 August	Kuwait	0800-1025	F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18	60 (including 7 drones)	8,000-10,000	180-780	Basrah, Nasiriyah, Qurnah, Jalibah

Total sorties: 107